

On Call Inside the Blue

A community publication of the Arlington, Texas Police Department

Behind Closed Doors: Inside The Property Room

Behind secured doors, the Arlington Police Department Property and Evidence Room is a warehouse filled with critical information.

Boxes containing evidence in many forms are organized from floor to ceiling. Vials of blood from DWI arrests and televisions and computers from criminal investigations are stored here.

Behind an additional set of locked doors, boxes of illegal drugs are ready for transport to an incinerator in east Texas. There's a secured area for jewelry, weapons and money.

Last month, \$66,000 in cash made its way here. Officers responding to a death investigation of an elderly woman found the money under her bed. The cash will sit in a bank until it is claimed.

An area dedicated to homicide cases contains boxes of evidence dating back to 1960. Anything a suspect might have touched is in here.

Every item in the Property and Evidence Room is marked by a police report number, barcode and date and kept under 24-hour surveillance.

Last year, 30,800 pieces of evidence from Arlington crime scenes ended up here. That's more than double the number of items collected 10 years ago. The trained specialists who book in and store these items know exactly where to find each and every piece.

"Any misplacement of evidence could blur the line between an acquittal and a conviction," said Sgt. Cameron Huggins, the supervisor of the

APD Property and Evidence Unit. His team of six state-certified specialists strive to maintain every item in the same condition it was received. All are working on advanced level certifications through the International Association of Property and Evidence.

State law requires the department to keep certain evidence from sexual assault cases for 40 years. Evidence from murder cases date back to 1960 and must be kept indefinitely.

Many of the items, found class rings and wallets, often find their way back to the owner. It is APD policy to make every reasonable effort to return property to the rightful owner or their designated representative, said Jacquelyn Williams, a Property and Evidence Specialist.

"We get everything from socks and back packs to the people themselves," she says.

An urn was found and turned in to police last week containing the ashes of an unknown person.

Over a period of time, unclaimed property is destroyed, which means it is buried in the landfill, auctioned or donated to charity when the item is new clothing, shoes or a bicycle. Space is running out.

"That's why it's important for us to do everything we can to return property to the rightful owner," he said.

While the Property Room is closed to the public, areas inside the Jail and Lobby of the Ott Cribbs Public Safety Building are accessible to those claiming property.

Coming soon: A new Property Room customer service window.

How to Claim Property

620 W. Division St. 817-459-5720 propertyroom@arlingtontx.gov

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 8 AM to 5 PM

Wednesday - 8 AM to 12 Noon

Friday - CLOSED

BEFORE YOU GO:

Please have your report number available. A government issued ID or driver's license is required to retrieve property.

Personal property can only be claimed by the owner unless accompanied by notarized letter granting authorization to another individual.

A background check will be conducted before any firearm can be released.



THE APD PROPERTY ROOM UNIT - Sgt. Cameron Huggins (center), (Left) Property and Evidence Specialists Annette Alex, Abigayle Grant, Sarah Junious, Irene Nabors, Natalie Walters and Jacquelyn Williams.

Wounded Officer Recovers; Says He'd Do It All Again

Officer Eddie Johnston wants the Arlington community to know that he's getting better every day and plans to return to patrol later this month.

Officer Johnston was shot April 25 while assisting the Saginaw Police Department with the apprehension of fugitive wanted for murder. He continues to recover from his injuries and appeared

May 16 at a news conference in the Media Office to thank the public for the outpouring of support he and his wife have received.

They received a countless number of emails, phone calls, meals and visits, he said.

"I was truly blessed that night," he told news reporters.

His wife thanked the entire Arlington community for coming together to support her family.

"That night was terrifying," she said. "It was every police officer wife's worst nightmare."

Officer Johnston, an Army veteran who has been with the department since 2014, said if he had to do it all over again, he would.

"It's a passion of mine to serve and protect," he said.

"It's part of the job and what I was hired to do. I would do it all again in a heartbeat."



Officer Johnston and his wife are thankful to the community.

On Call NORTH DISTRICT

YOUTH CORNER

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES



Congratulations! Police Explorer Post 602 has two youth teams preparing for state competition as part of the Texas Law Enforcement Explorer Advisor Association Annual Competition coming to UT Arlington, July 28-31. More than 80 teams from across the Southwest are expected. Explorer Post 602 membership is open to anyone age 14 to 20 interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Learn more about them. Click [here](#).

Looking for summertime employment? Click [here](#) to see what's available at Six Flags Over Texas. For more employment opportunities, click [here](#).

New APD Auxiliary Unit Makes an Appearance at Career Day

The new APD Auxiliary Unit made a special appearance during Career Day at Speer Elementary School on May 13.

Arlington students in pre-kindergarten through the sixth grade interacted with professionals from many different careers. Doctors, lawyers, educators and construction workers were in attendance, but it was the police officers on horseback who became a main attraction on this special day.

The history of this unit in Arlington dates back to the 1980s.



It was disbanded in the early 1990s and reinstated in July 2015 with six certified officers.

Elementary students enjoyed meeting Officer Pam Gold and her partner Opie and Corporal Cliff Elliot and his partner Buddy. This unit participates in special events, such as the July 4 Parade and can be called upon to assist and support APD.

The students learned how much our horses enjoy hay and oats as a part of their regular diet. For a special treat, they get an apple and carrot mix.

Opie is an 11-year-old Arabian and Buddy is an 18-year-old Appaloosa quarter horse.

Corporal Elliott and Officer Gold talked about their other modes of transportation as well. The Dodge Charger, boat, motorcycle, unmanned aircraft, even officers on foot patrol are deployed in our city to help keep the public safe.

Thanks Speer Elementary and the Police Auxiliary Unit for an awesome day of career exploration.



On Career Day, students dressed as nurses, doctors and construction workers.

(At left) This Speer Elementary student wants to be an officer when she grows up.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call SOUTH DISTRICT

Community Discussion Inspires Hope and Healing

Officers from the South Police District as well as those from across our department recently attended a great community discussion on race and reconciliation at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

The Police Department was honored to welcome Dr. John Perkins to our city to lead this panel discussion.

Dr. Perkins is a world renowned author and speaker on civil rights and community empowerment. The panel also

included Police Chief Will Johnson and the Rev. William Dwight McKissic, the pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

The Rev. Jason Paredes, lead pastor of Fielder Church, was the moderator.

During this forum, we heard about the struggles Dr. Perkins has faced in his life and on his journey to finding forgiveness and love for those who hate.

This event was a passionate discussion about procedural justice and the importance of maintaining positive police community relations.

This discussion among the panel members also included plenty of audience participation.

Community forums like these are designed to open the lines of communication and help break down barriers. This event brought people together for an unforgettable evening of hope, healing and inspiration.



Dialogue on race and reconciliation continues.



Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District. Contact Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Hayden at 817-459-6468 or Timothy.Hayden@Arlingtontx.gov.

NOW ACCEPTING

APPLICATIONS for the Fall 2016 Arlington Citizens Police Academy! Click [here](#) to apply online or call Officer Tim Hayden at 817-450-6468.

THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT TOURISM UNIT

SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER SAFETY EXPO

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
SATURDAY, JUNE 18

PUBLIC SAFETY DEMOS,
VENDORS, GAMES, PRIZES,
FAMILY FUN AND MORE!

Downtown Arlington
201 E. Abram St. in the
parking lot near the Municipal
Office Tower

On Call EAST DISTRICT

APD Welcomes a New Class of Public Safety Partners

Congratulations! Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Class #30 has graduated.

Certificates of completion were presented May 12 to thirteen citizen graduates.

Special Awards of Excellence were given to three, including a graduate who learned Spanish and enhanced her commitment to the program and her community.

Donna Austin was also selected as the class speaker and earned a First Place Award for Academic Achievement.

The Arlington Police Department started the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy in 1999. This free program involves 33 hours

of training over 11 weeks. Classroom topics range from crime scene and gangs to defensive tactics and special operations. Each class provides participants with the tools to become safer, better informed citizens and more active members of the community.

Upon completion of the academy and graduation, many of these graduates continue their active involvement in the community as members of the Hispanic Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association who provide support to our department in many different ways.

Enrollment is currently open for our upcoming two-day HCPA class on June 16 and 17. Give us a call and reserve your seat.



(Top)
HCPA Class #30
Graduates.



(Left)
Donna Austin,
Officer Doug
Glotfelty,
Assistant Chief
Jaime Ayala,
Officer Aumedes
and Deputy Chief
Os Flores.



SAVE THE DATES!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bến Thành Plaza
1818 E. Pioneer Parkway

Unidos and Đoàn Kết are together for a free community health fair, food, entertainment and more.

For more information, call
817-459-5817.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Arlington Convention Center
1200 Ballpark Way

The 2016 City of Arlington Homeownership Fair

- Home Buying 101
- How to improve credit scores
- How to obtain mortgage lending down payment assistance

Click [here](#) for more details.

Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalia Aumedes at 817-459-5817 or Natalia.Aumedes@Arlingtontx.gov.

On Call WEST DISTRICT

Officers and High School Students Together for Faith and Fun

On May 18, officers from the West Police District joined close to 1,100 high school students for the All City Worship event at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Trinity United Methodist is a vibrant community of faith who is actively engaged in our community and the world around us. This event was a special time for students from across the city to come together for fun and worship.

Officers interacted with youth and the church provided free hot dogs and plenty of games.

Officers Kristi Weil and Blake Ritchie along with Lt. Bobby Mason greeted the community of parents, volunteers and youths. It was another great opportunity for officers from the West Police District to connect and bond with youth in this atmosphere of fun and faith.

The next day, the West Police District received the email below from a church member attending the event.

"I wanted to let you know that I really appreciated your support last night. I had people comment that they were glad to see the police interacting with the kids."
- Michael Jentsch

Organizers plan to continue to host the All City Worship Event for Youth once a quarter at a different church. Programs like this bring us together and we find that we have much in common.



(Above Left to right)

Lt. Bobby Mason,
Trinity United
Methodist Church
volunteer Michael
Jentsch and Youth
Pastor Scott
Heusel.



Make time to talk
about child safety.

Child safety is a national
priority. Become a child
safety champion.
Click [here](#) to get involved.

Arlington Police Department
reminds motorists to slow
down in neighborhoods and
near parks where children
are playing and riding bikes.

THE SPEED LIMIT IS 30 MPH.

Avoid distractions inside the
vehicle. Texting and driving
is against the law. Be alert
and observant at all times.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District. For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty at 817-459-6072 or Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov.

Officers Are Bestowed Medals of Valor for Bravery

It's been eight months since an armed robbery suspect led officers on a dangerous pursuit and shooting spree, but the heroes on that day still remember every detail.

The gunman, later identified as 38-year-old Dylan Perry, committed four armed robberies. Two of them occurred in Mansfield. He threatened innocent bystanders and car jacked two unsuspecting individuals before leading Arlington police on a dangerous chase through the city.

"The only thing going through my mind was how to stop him," said Officer Charles Crawford.

For their tenacious efforts and bravery on Sept. 25, APD presented Medals of Valor to Sergeant Richard Grimmert, Officer Cody Adams and Officer Charles Crawford. The awards were presented on May 12.

Police Chief Will Johnson said these officers ended what could have been "a deadly rampage."

"These officers were the reason there were no serious injuries to innocent bystanders and officers," the Chief said.

During an interview with Fox 4 News, Sgt. Grimmert said, "my guardian angel was on my shoulder."

The gunman is currently in the Tarrant County Jail facing multiple charges, including aggravated robbery and criminal intent to commit murder.

"The only thing going through my mind was how to stop him."

— Officer Charles Crawford

Police Chief Will Johnson is Honored with Prestigious Leadership Award

Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief and Two Lieutenants Graduate from Leadership Arlington

ARLINGTON HILTON –

Police Chief Will Johnson has been presented the Leadership Arlington 2016 Sally Kallam Award.

The award is presented annually to an individual who best emulates the ideals of leadership through efforts devoted to the community. Past honorees have included former mayors Robert Cluck, Richard Greene and Tom Vandergriff.

The award was presented May 16 during the Leadership Arlington Annual Meeting and Graduation Ceremony.

Chief Johnson has been at the helm of

the Arlington Police Department since 2013. He also holds leadership positions with the Police Executive Research Forum and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, where he chairs the Civil Rights Committee.

During the Annual Meeting, four police executives were among 38 graduates of the 2016 Leadership Arlington Academy. There were 37 youth graduates.

Leadership Arlington membership fosters a higher level of civic and community engagement for youths and adults. It was started in 1980 by Sally Kallam who served as its founder and president.



Assistant Chief Kevin Kolbye



Deputy Chief Jim Lowery



Lt. Kelly Velder



Lt. Michael Moses



Last year's honoree, Mary Hibbs, presents the Sally Kallam award to Police Chief Will Johnson.

Suspect in Deadly Road Rage Shooting is Indicted

Oak Farms Dairy to Pay \$10,000 in Reward Money

The suspect in a deadly road rage incident that occurred on Jan. 27 has been indicted by a Tarrant County Grand Jury.

With this arrest and indictment, Oak Farms Dairy will pay \$10,000 to two individuals who provided Arlington detectives with key information about the shooter.

According to APD Homicide Detective Steve Griesbach, a 26-year-old woman was driving a co-worker home on Interstate 30 on Jan. 27 when words were exchanged between the shooter and victim.

While driving, the shooter fired into the woman's car, striking her. She was pronounced deceased at a local hospital.

APD quickly turned to the public's help to identify the shooter who fled the scene.

Oak Farms Dairy stepped forward to offer a monetary reward to anyone with information about the shooting.

"We received two tips on this case from two individuals on the same day within minutes of each other," Detective Griesbach said. "Both individuals provided great leads."



APD thanks Oak Farms Dairy for their involvement in this homicide case.



Ready for the ride. Traffic Officer Peter Hughes was among the first to climb aboard the new Catwoman Whip when it opened May 17 at Six Flags Over Texas.



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Send story ideas and comments to the Editor:
817-459-5384 or Cheryl.Carpenter@Arlingtontx.gov

www.ArlingtonPD.org

Nextdoor

